companies of Pepsi, Brooke Bond and Coca Cola etc, on the platforms at Delhi and New Delhi stations in place of Railway's built stalls;

(b) whether they have been allowed to sell the Tea, Coffee and other eatables on higher rates to the passengers against the prescribed rates fixed by the Railway Board; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Manufacturing of Tank Wagons

1999. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Oil pipeline scare triggers shift in Railways policy" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 17th July, 1997 if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of tank wagons manufactured by railways and the actual requirement thereof annually in the country;

(c) what are the details of own your wagon scheme and in what manner the scheme is regulated; and

(d) whether the matter has been taken up by his Ministry with Petroleum Ministry about the stalemate so created due to new proposals of oil pipelines?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir; tank wagon procurement policy is formulated based on the actual demand for rail movement of POL products.

(b) Tank wagons are not manufactured by railways. Actual requirement of tank wagons is assessed on an year to year basis and orders placed on wagon builders.

(c) Under Own Your Wagon Scheme investments are invited from bulk users and financing/leasing companies for ownership of wagons in units of trains. The wagons can be procured either through the Indian Railways or directly from approved wagon builders. According to their needs, owners enter into agreements with the Indian Railways under different categories of the Scheme. They are either paid lease charges on the investments made or are accorded the benefit of a mutually agreed freight rebate thereof. The lessor/user is also given a guarantee for transportation of a specified quantity of traffic for a specific period.

The working of the scheme is regulated by an agreement between the lessor and the lessee in whcih the terms and conditions of the scheme are set out along with mutual responsibilities and obligations with appropriate default clauses.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Issue of Platinum Pass

2000. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the Railway Board who are entitled for 'Gold Pass' for rail journey have now upgraded their entitlement to 'Platinum Pass';

(b) who are the other dignitaries in the country entitled for Platinum Pass; and

(c) the sanctioning authority for 'Platinum Pass' and whether the Railway Board members had taken such sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Ministry of Railway have introduced Platinum Pass for Members of Railway Board.

(b) Only Railway Board Members are entitled to Platinum Pass.